

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 08959 031707Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 SAA-01 SES-02 /089 W
-----077752 040913Z /21

R 031704Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5613
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 08959

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, SS, SP
SUBJECT: A SPANISH ROLE IN THE SAHARA DISPUTE

REF: STATE 195571

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAW LOPEZ AGUIRREBENGOA AFTERNOON
AUGUST 3 AND CONVEYED FIVE POINTS IN PARA 1 REFTEL TO
HIM.

2. IN RESPONSE LOPEZ EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR OFFER
AND SAID SPANISH WOULD KEEP IT VERY MUCH IN MIND.
HOWEVER, MADRID WAS NOW IN THE BACKGROUND AND PARIS WAS
THE PROTAGONIST IN SEARCHING FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.

3. QUESTION IS PROBABLY EVEN MORE SENSITIVE FOR MADRID
THAN FOR PARIS, LOPEZ SAID, BECAUSE OF INTERNAL POLITICAL
PROBLEMS. DURING MEETING WITH OPPOSITION FOREIGN POLICY
SPOKESMEN AUGUST 2 (SEPTTEL) IT BECAME CLEAR THAT
OPPOSITION ELEMENTS WOULD SUPPORT ANY EFFORT MADE BY GOS
TO ASSIST IN FINDING A SETTLEMENT, LOPEZ SAID. HOWEVER,
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GOS WAS NOT THE IDEAL MEDIATOR BECAUSE IT COULD NOT
PROPOSE OR STRONGLY ADVOCATE ANY SOLUTION THAT MIGHT
PROVE OFFENSIVE TO THE MOROCCANS.

4. WHEN ASKED WHETHER SPANISH HAVE INFORMATION ON CURRENT
MOROCCAN ATTITUDE TOWARD POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
SAHARAN ENTITY IN THE MAURITANIAN OCCUPIED SAHARA,

LOPEZ REPLIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE MOROCCANS ON THIS. DIRECT CONTACT WILL TAKE PLACE, HE SAID, PROBABLY IN SEPTEMBER. WHEN PRESSED, HE SAID HE COULD GIVE NO MORE INFORMATION AT THIS TIME. (COMMENT: OUR GUESS WOULD BE THAT LOPEZ MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING HERE TO A POSSIBLE VISIT BY KING JUAN CARLOS TO MOROCCO IN SEPTEMBER. TODMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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